

## Interstate 73 Update

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Salem District Administrator

# The Interstate 73 Corridor

- Project history and status
- Henry County resolution
- Effects of the resolution



## How we got here:

I-73 was identified by the U.S. Congress as a high priority corridor in the federal transportation funding bill of 1991, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Act (ISTEA).

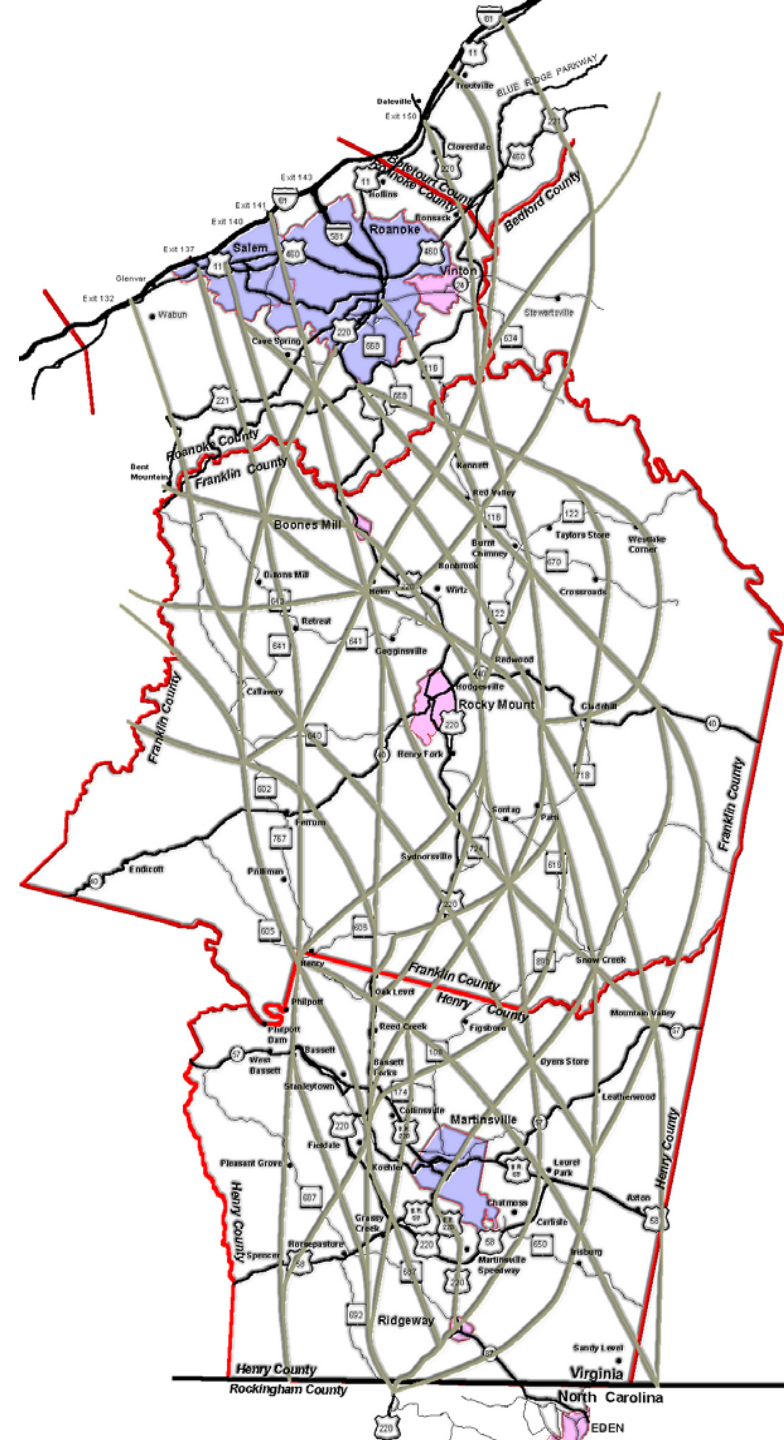
I-73 was defined as a north-south corridor from north of Detroit to Charleston, S.C.

VDOT launched a feasibility study for the portion of I-73 from Roanoke to the North Carolina line in late 1993.

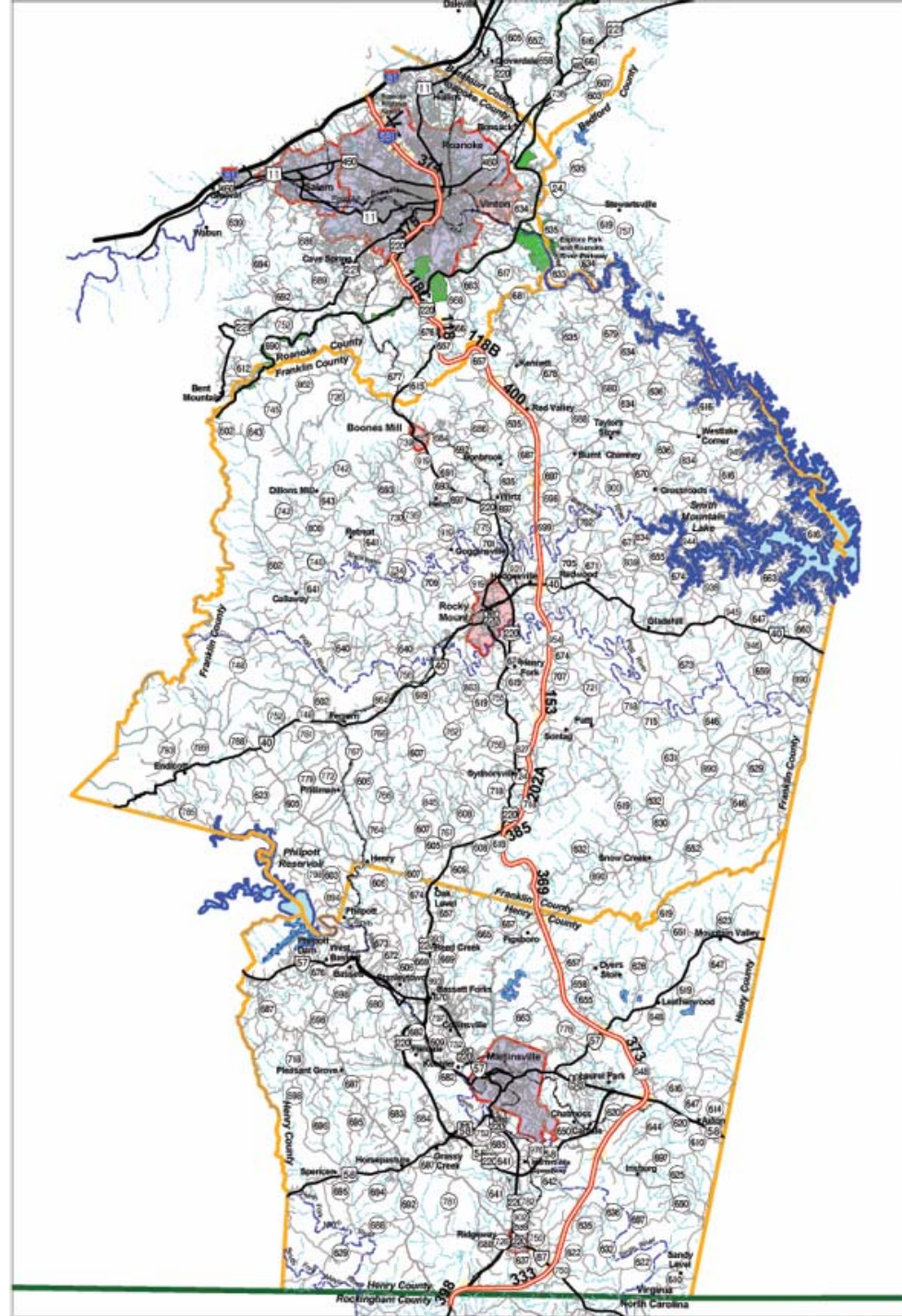


## I-73: Corridor options

During a very extensive public involvement process, VDOT considered a myriad of possible corridors for I-73.



# Interstate 73: CTB approved corridor



## The Environmental Impact Statement

Work began on the I-73 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in 1997 with a second set of public involvement meetings in 2000.

VDOT completed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) in late 2006.

The FEIS is a compilation of facts about potential corridors for the new interstate. As a part of this process, VDOT received thousands of public comments about the potential corridor.

The FEIS is 1,039 pages, but does not include numerous other technical studies for air, noise, cultural resources and others that were also completed as part of the process.

The FEIS is prepared by FHWA and VDOT with cooperation from the following agencies:

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- The National Park Service
- The U.S. Coast Guard

## **Interstate 73: Recent history**

**The Federal Highway Administration issued a Record of Decision in March 2007.**

**Four plaintiffs, including Virginians for Appropriate Roads, filed a lawsuit against the FHWA, USDOT and VDOT over the Interstate 73 project in October 2007.**

**The Oral Argument Hearing is scheduled for April 13, 2009 in U.S. District Court in Roanoke.**

**The Administrative Record is due to the court from the defendants by September 15. Objections from the plaintiffs are due by October 13.**

**Work on I-73 has been temporarily suspended pending the outcome of the lawsuit. To date, \$8.2 million has been spent on I-73.**

## Henry County

**In May 2007, the Henry County Board of Supervisors requested a presentation and status report from VDOT about I-73.**

**VDOT briefed the board on how the current corridor was chosen, and the potential delays involved in changing the corridor after the ROD had been approved.**

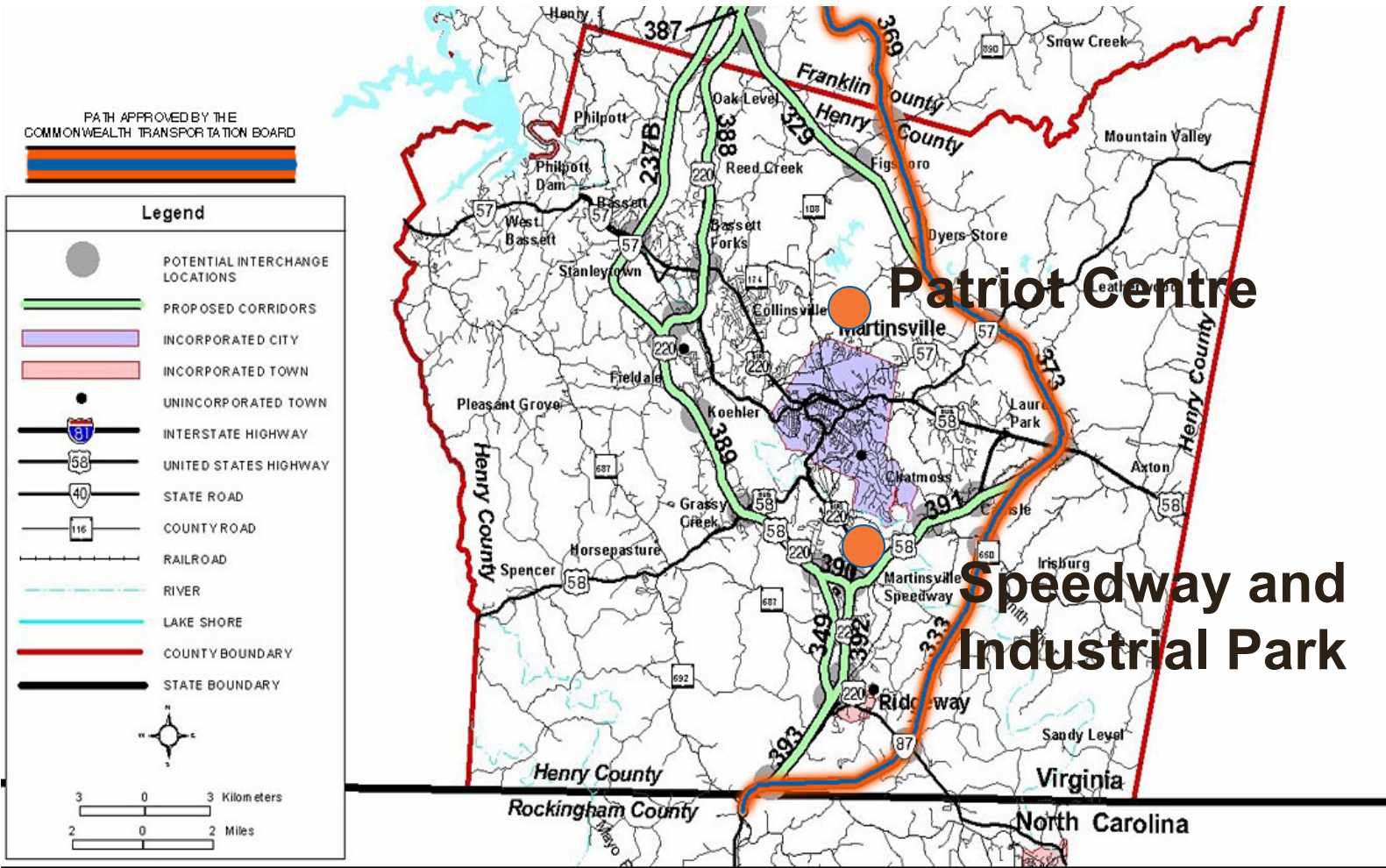


## Henry County

**In November 2007, the Henry County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution asking the CTB and VDOT to**

**“... re-open their consideration of a route for Interstate 73, and to incorporate the proposed Patriot Centre connector road and better access from the Martinsville Speedway and the Martinsville Industrial Park as part of that re-evaluation.”**

# Interstate 73 in Henry County



## Effects of the resolution

**The CTB resolution acknowledges the resolution from Henry County and allows VDOT and the FHWA to take actions regarding the county's request in a manner that would not impact the ongoing litigation, federal funding for the project and our advancement of the project.**

**Additional CTB action would be required to make any changes to the corridor alignment.**

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